



US009344886B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Nakajima

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,344,886 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **May 17, 2016**

(54) **COMMUNICATION APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 152 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/875,699**

(22) Filed: **May 2, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0298194 A1 Nov. 7, 2013

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

May 7, 2012 (JP) 2012-106118

(51) **Int. Cl.**
H04W 12/06 (2009.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC **H04W 12/06** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
None
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A communication apparatus detects network information concerning a network that communicates via a base station and performs acquisition processing for acquiring authentication information used for authentication with an authentication server via the base station from another communication apparatus according to the network information detected by the detection unit.

13 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets

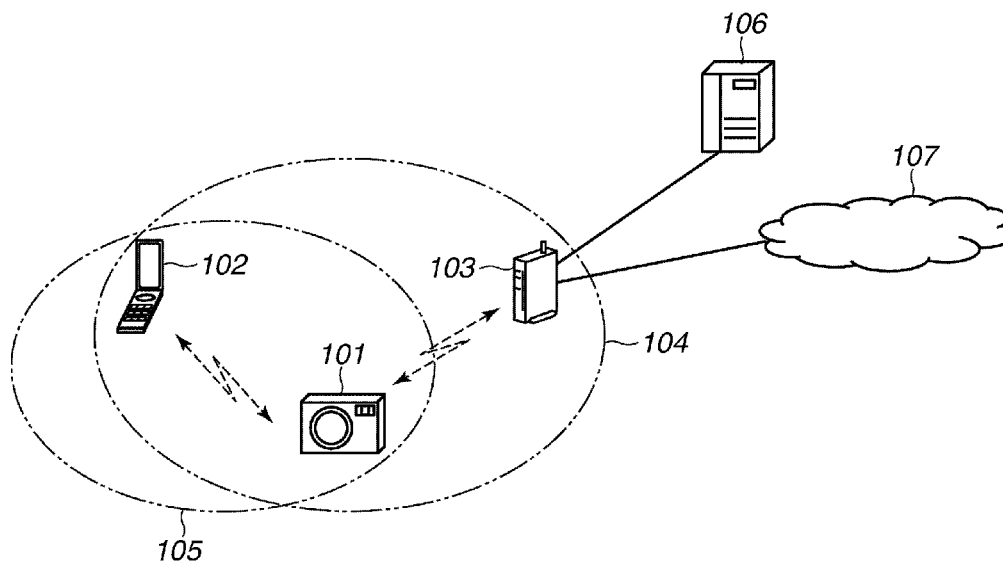


FIG. 1

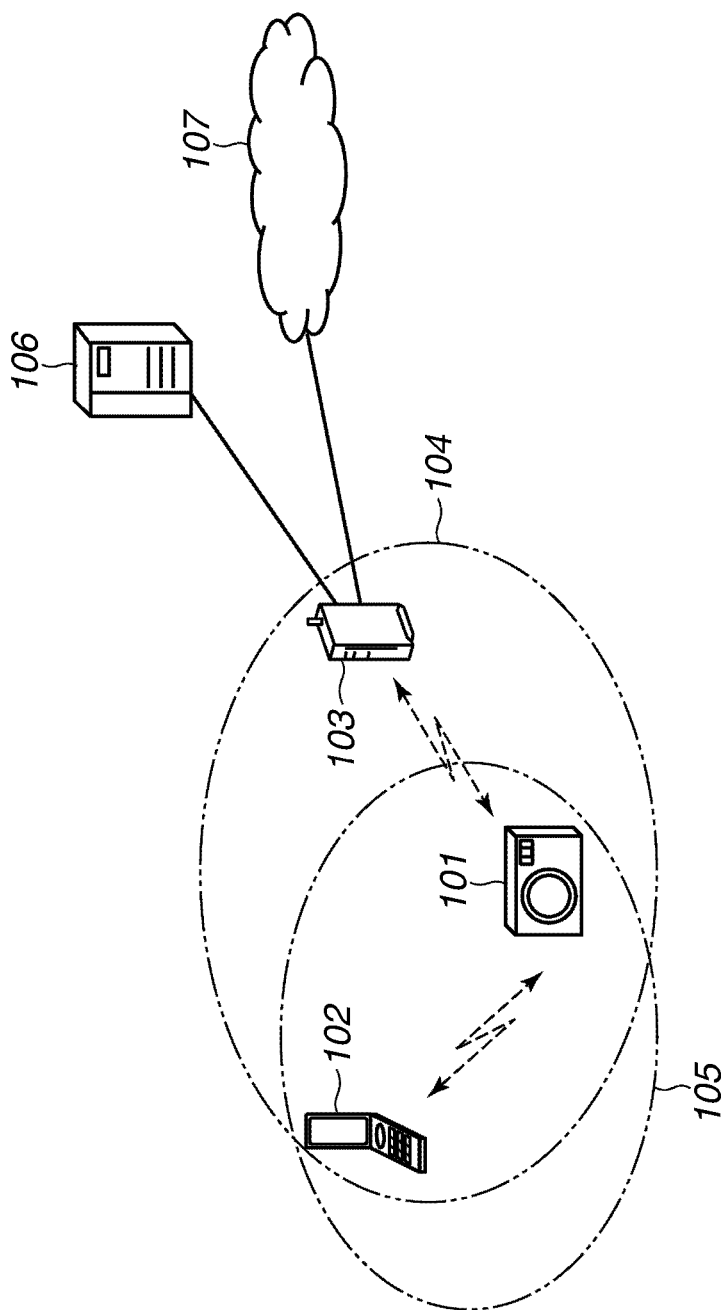


FIG.2

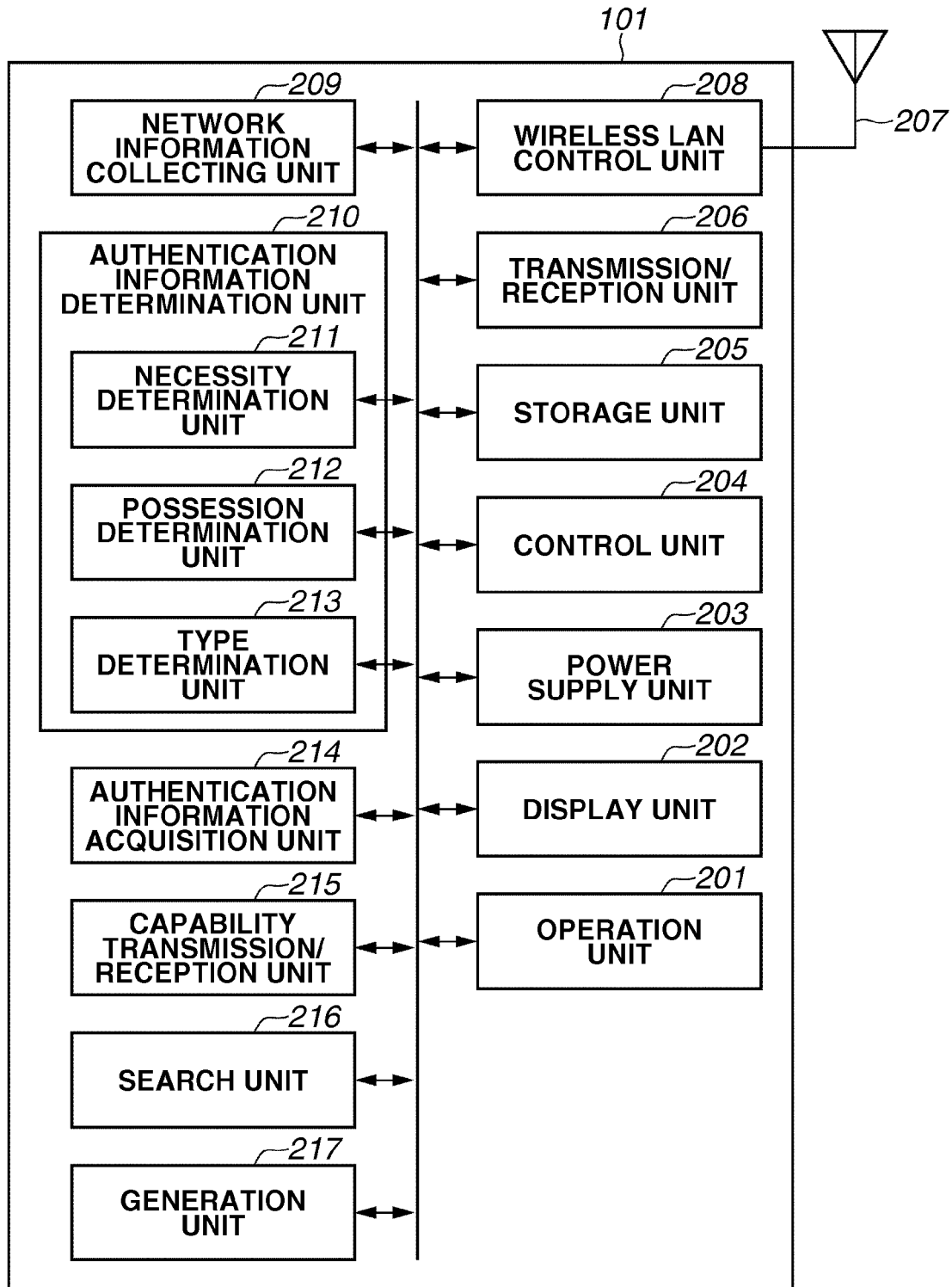


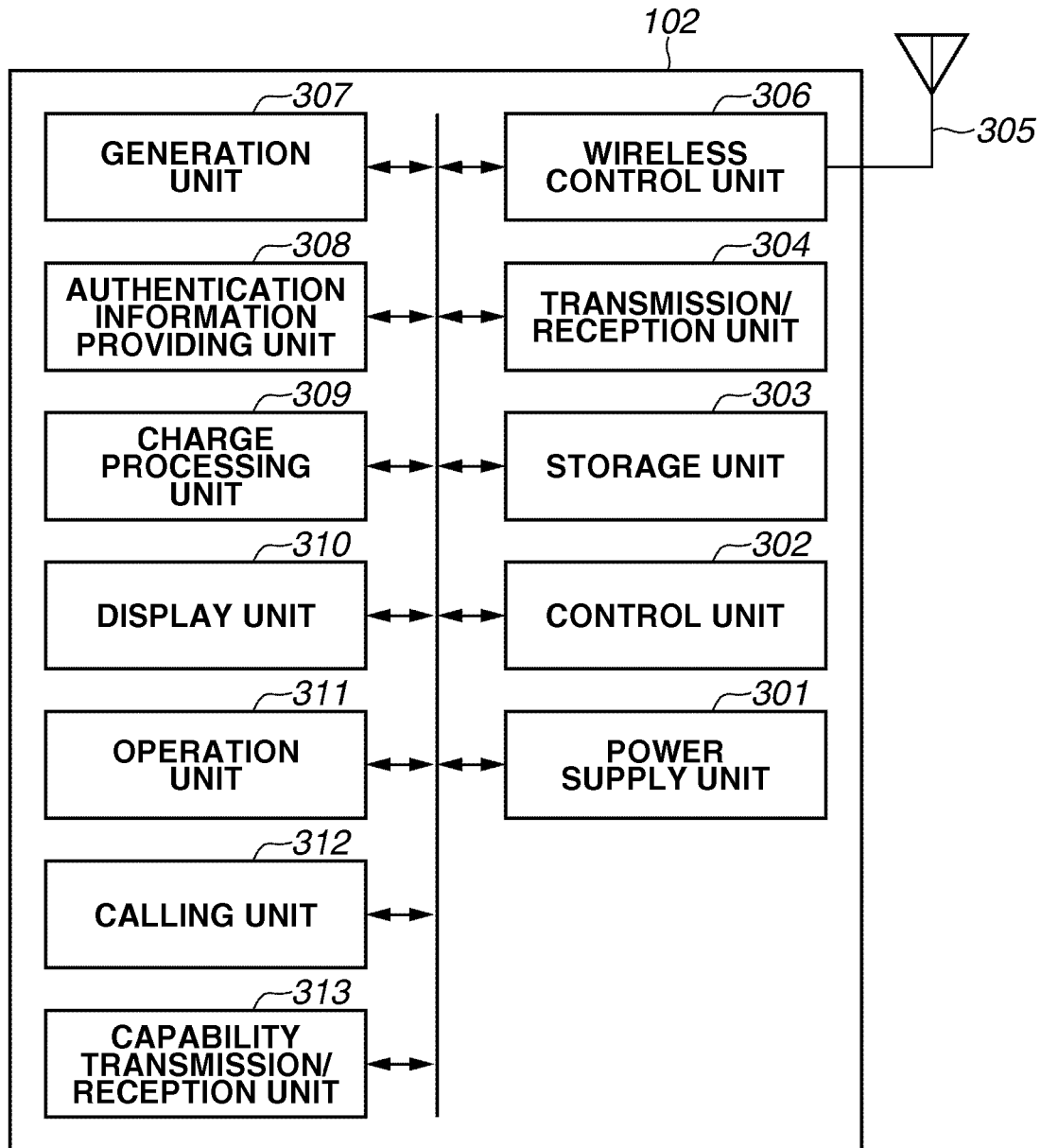
FIG.3

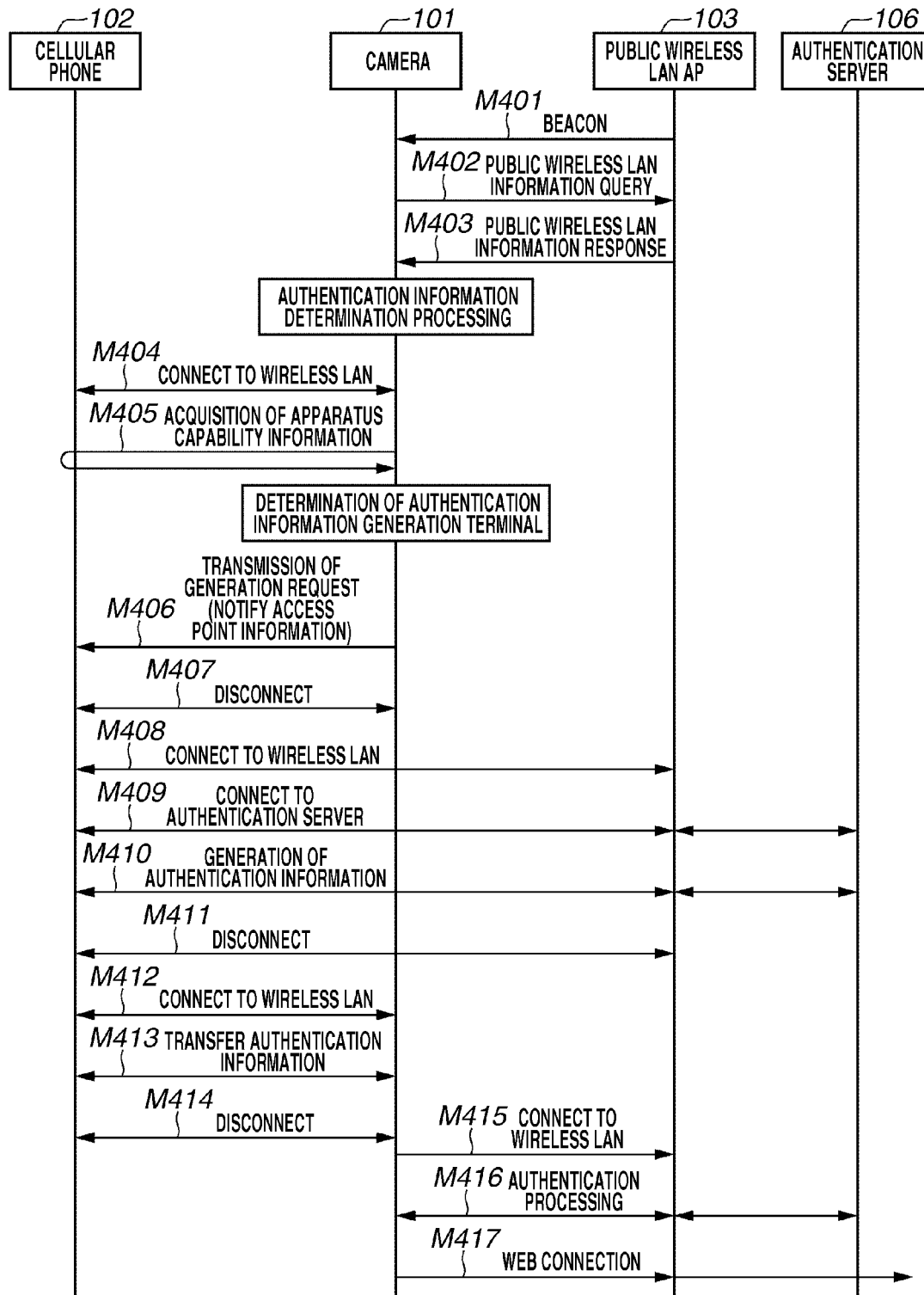
FIG.4

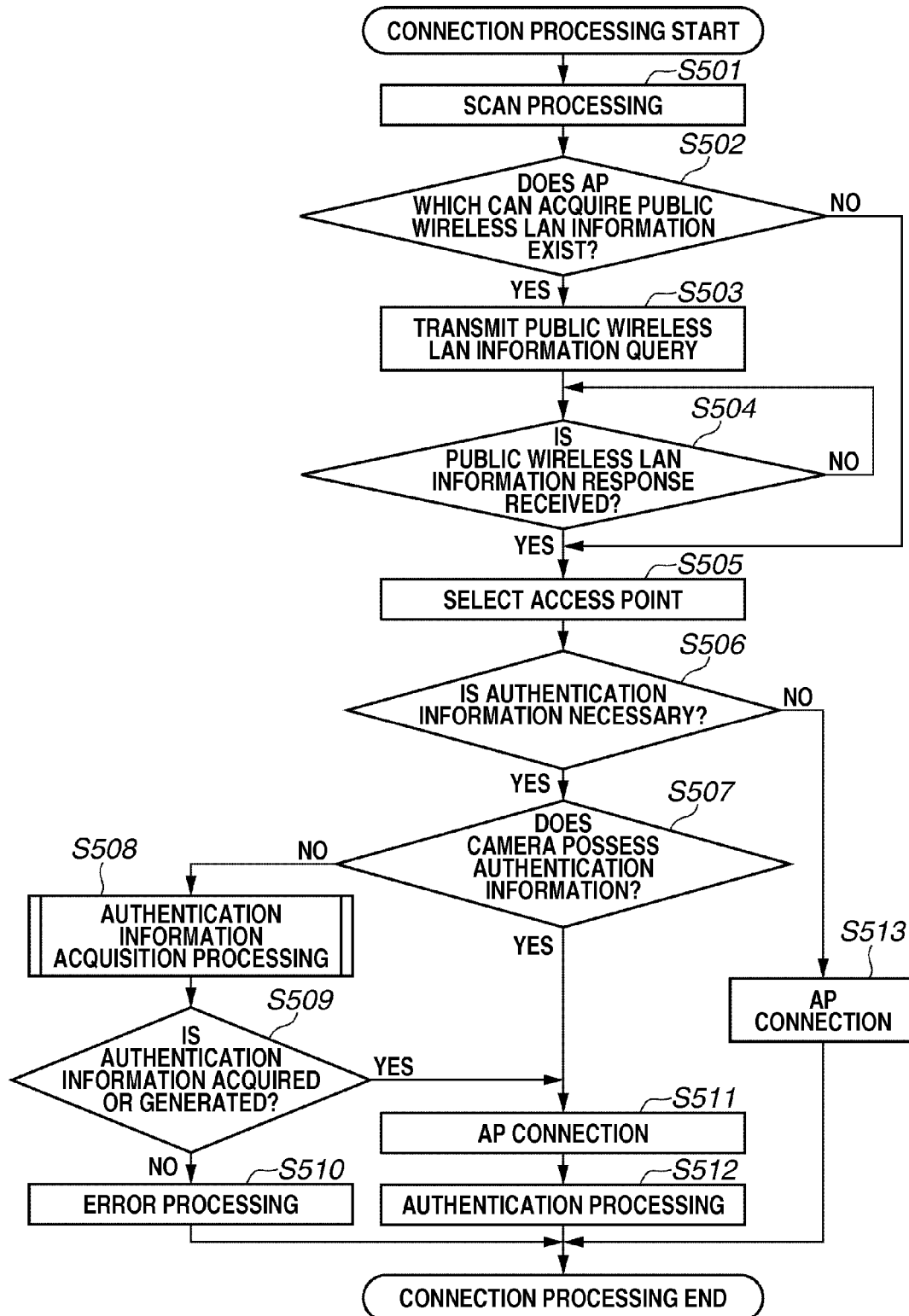
FIG.5

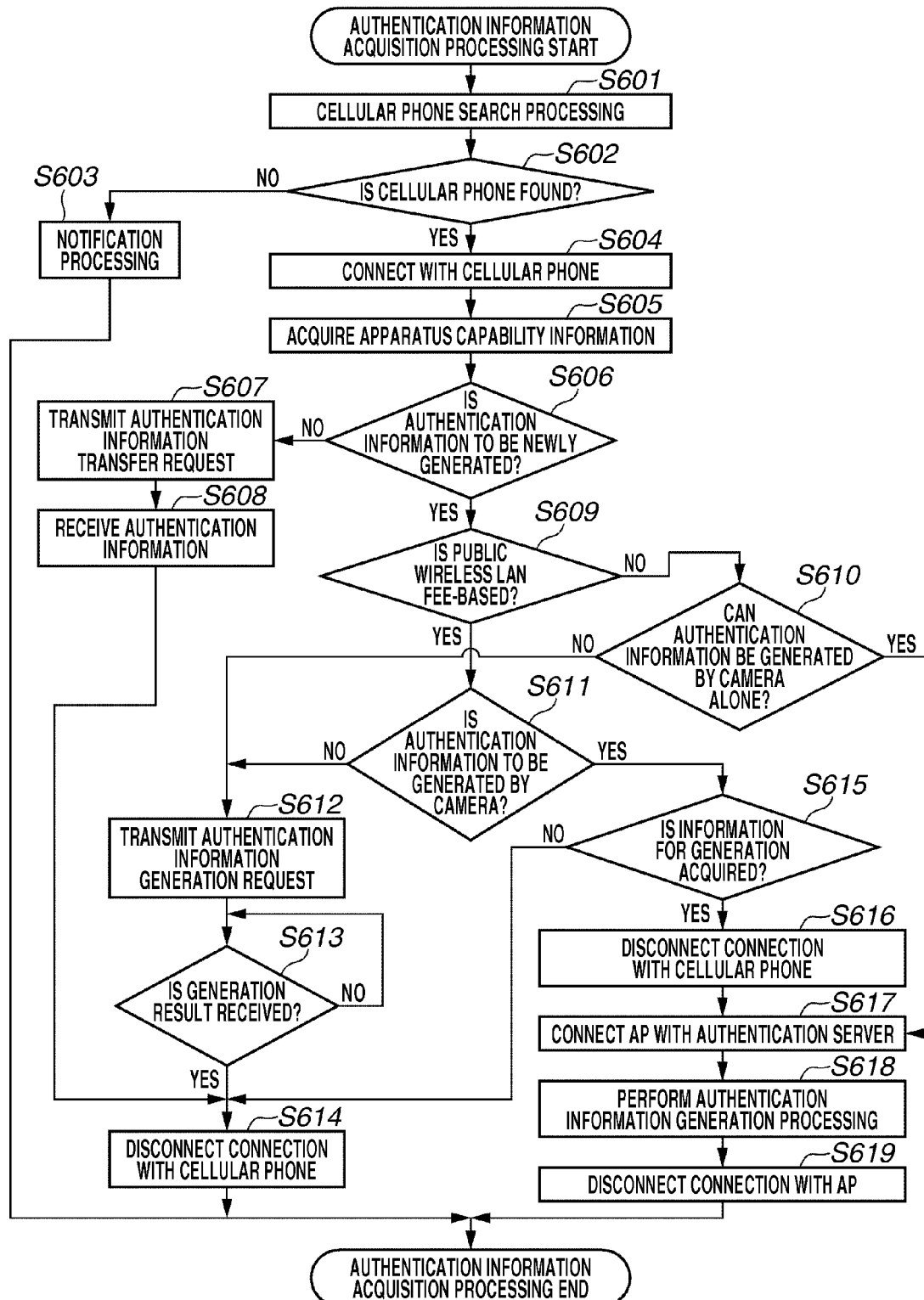
FIG. 6

FIG. 7

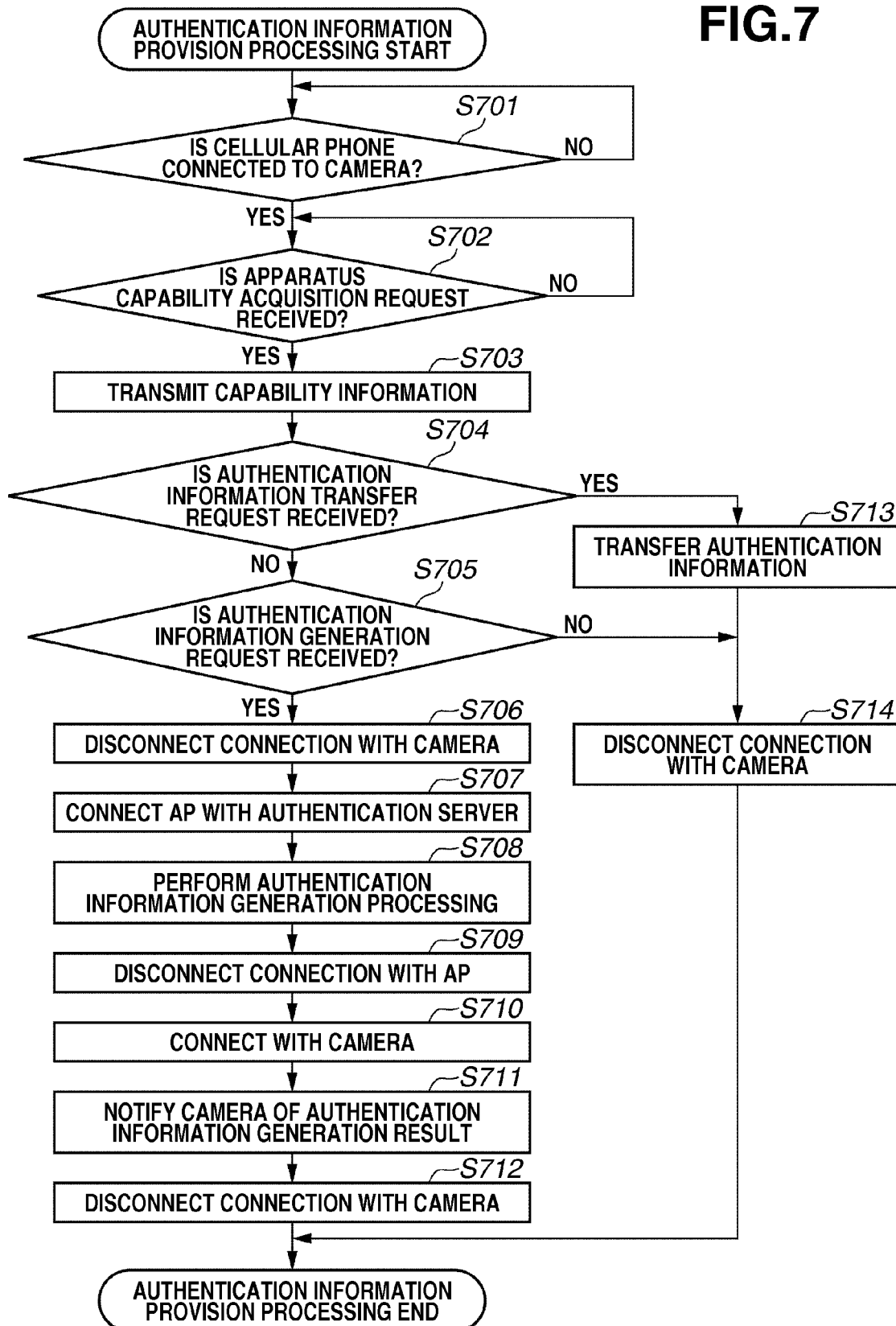


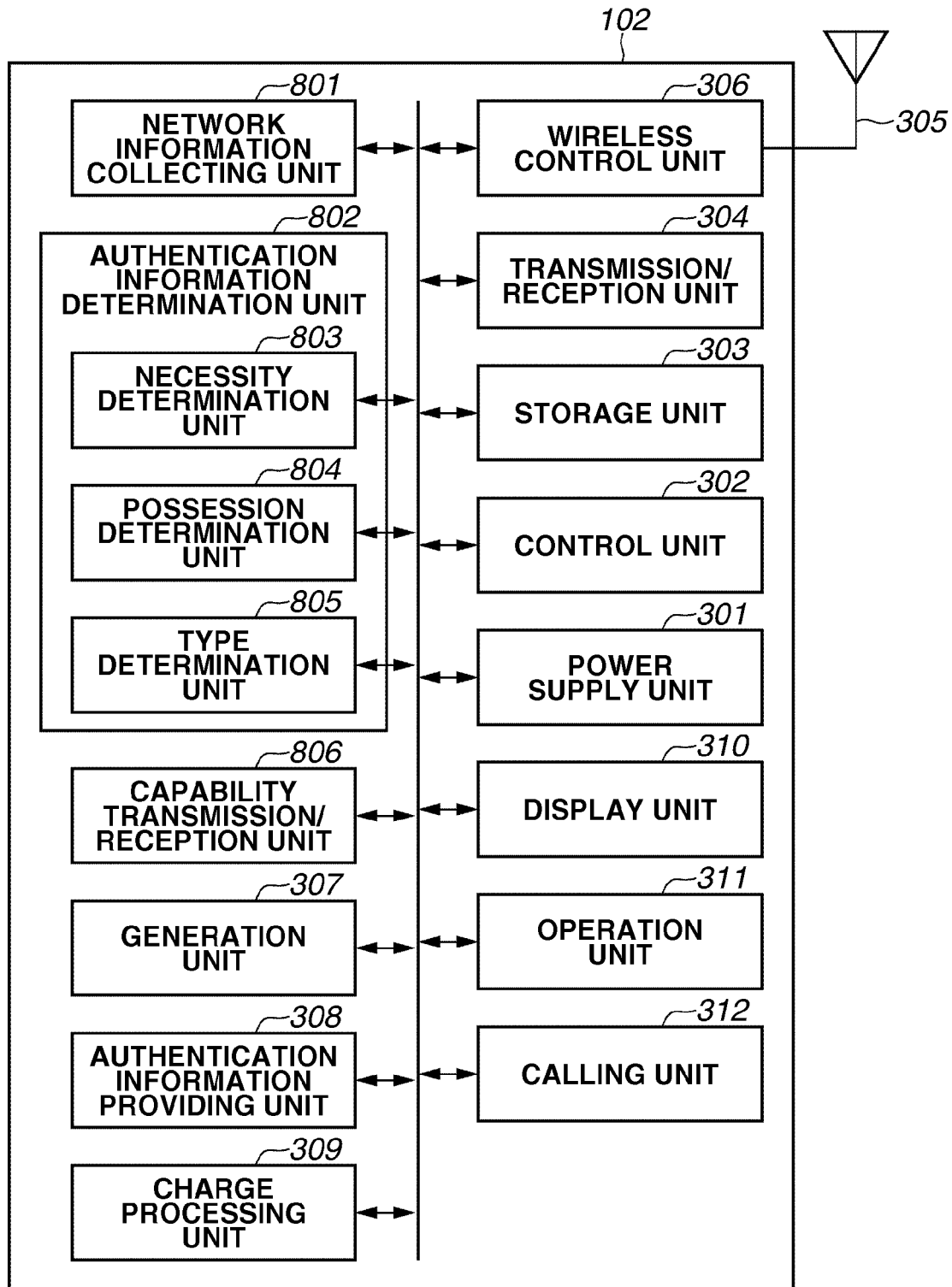
FIG.8

FIG. 9

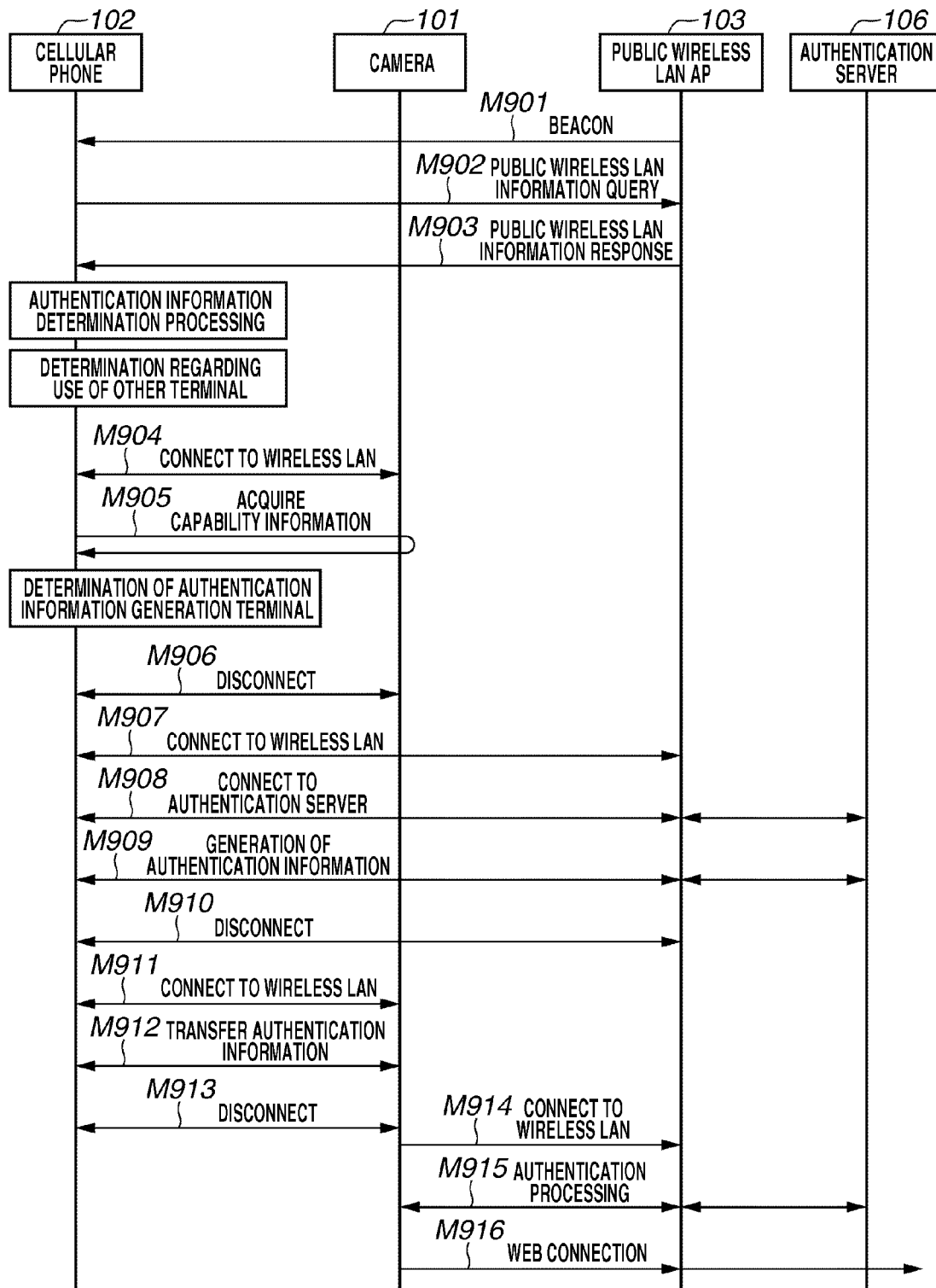


FIG. 10

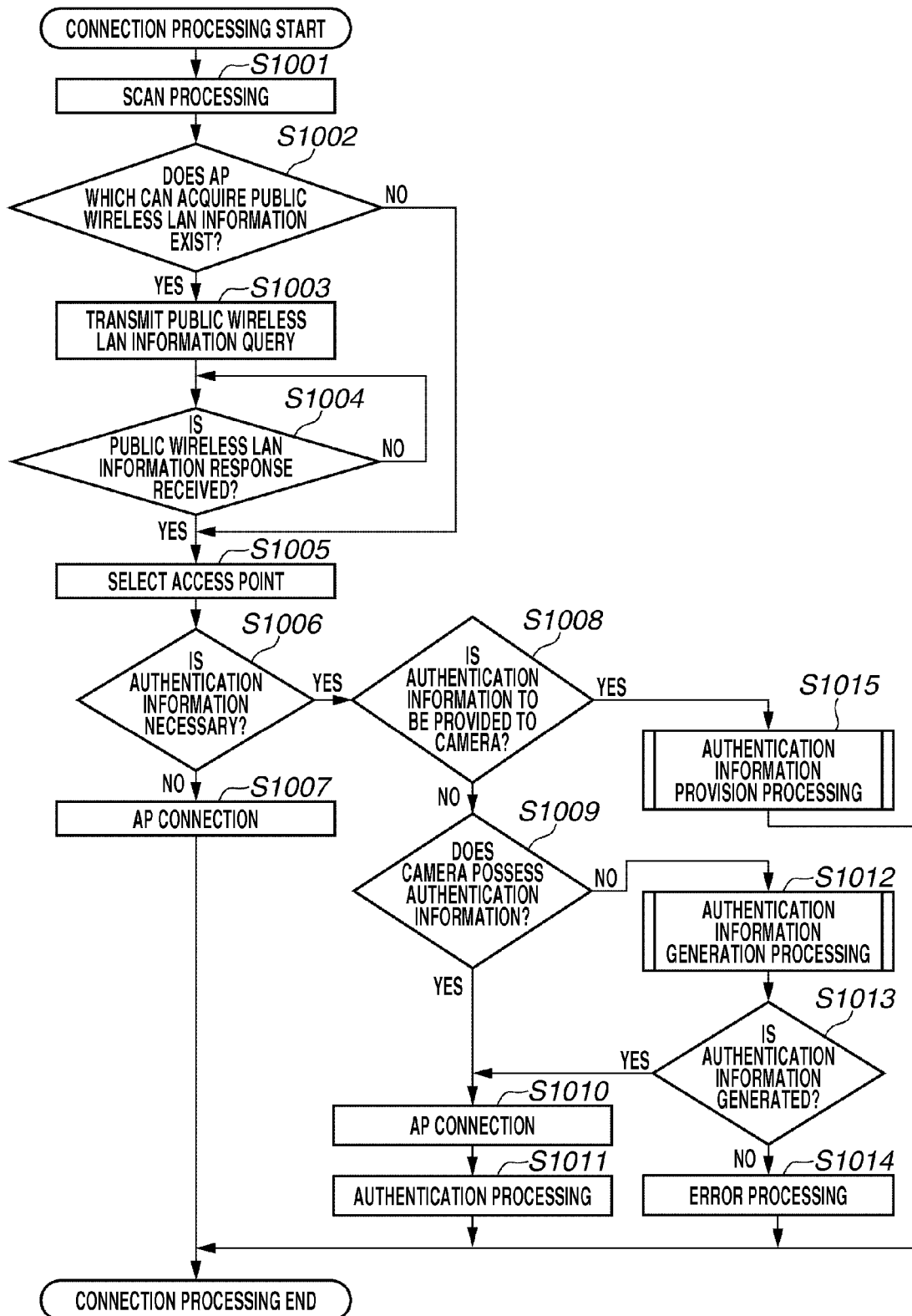


FIG.11

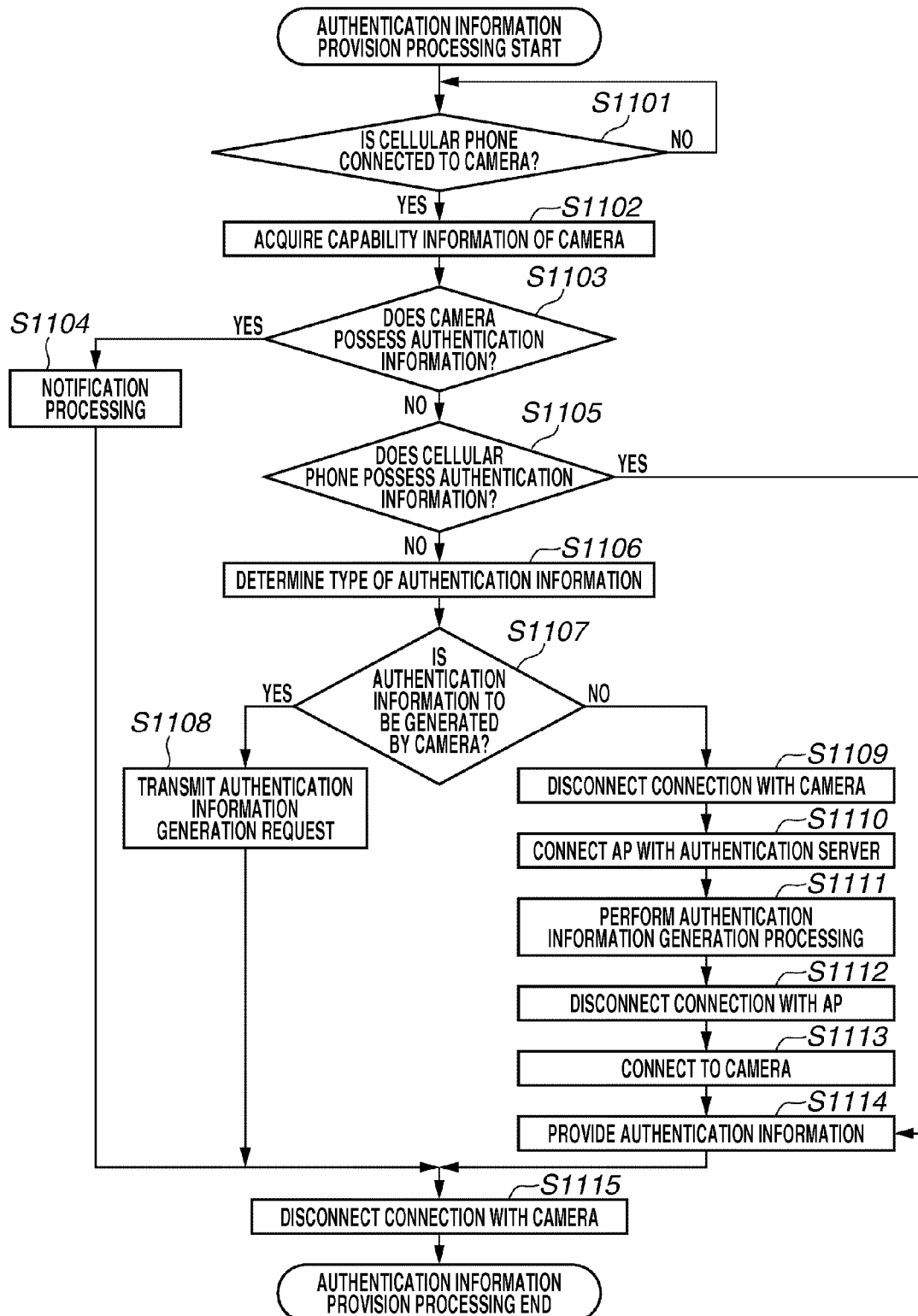


FIG.12

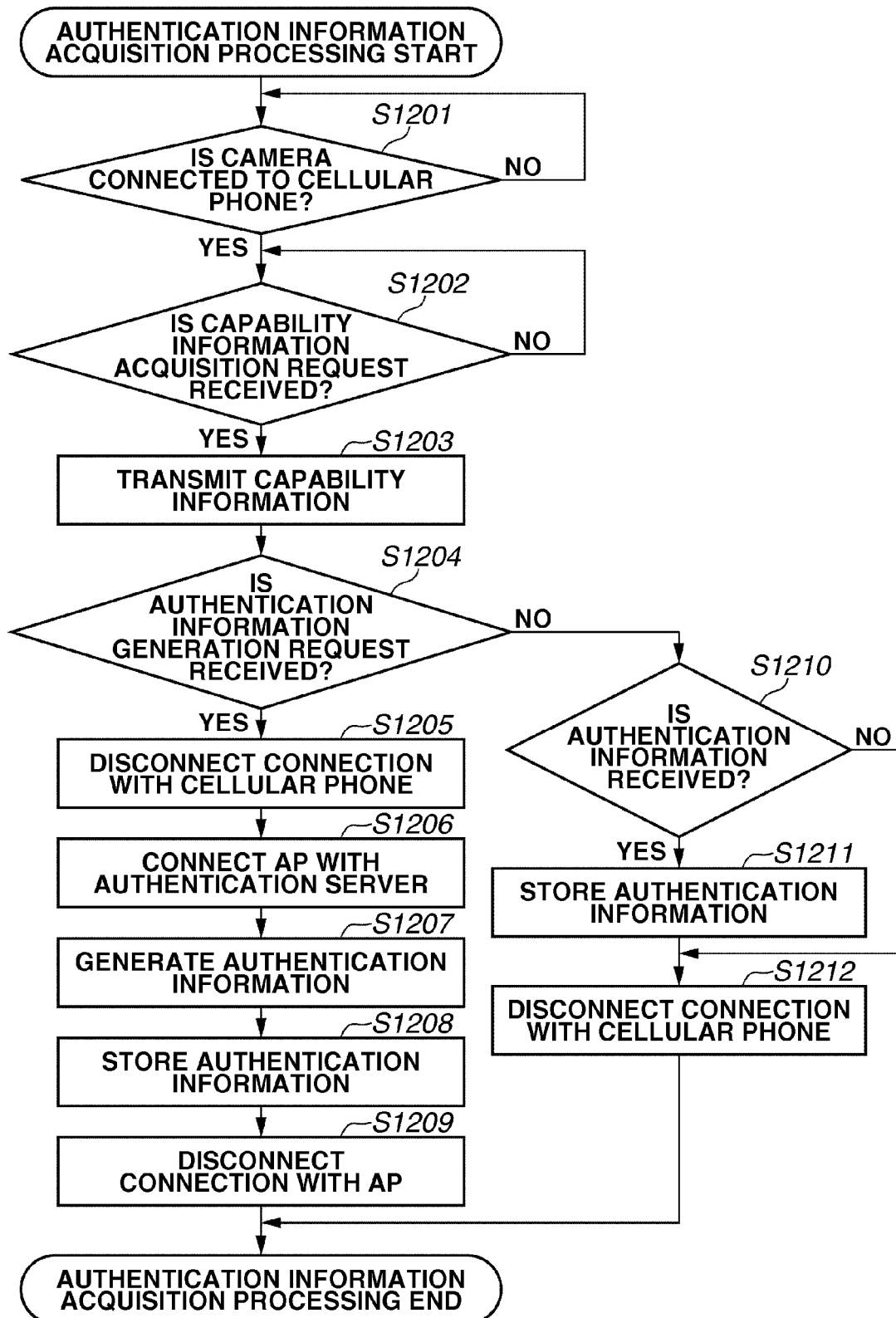
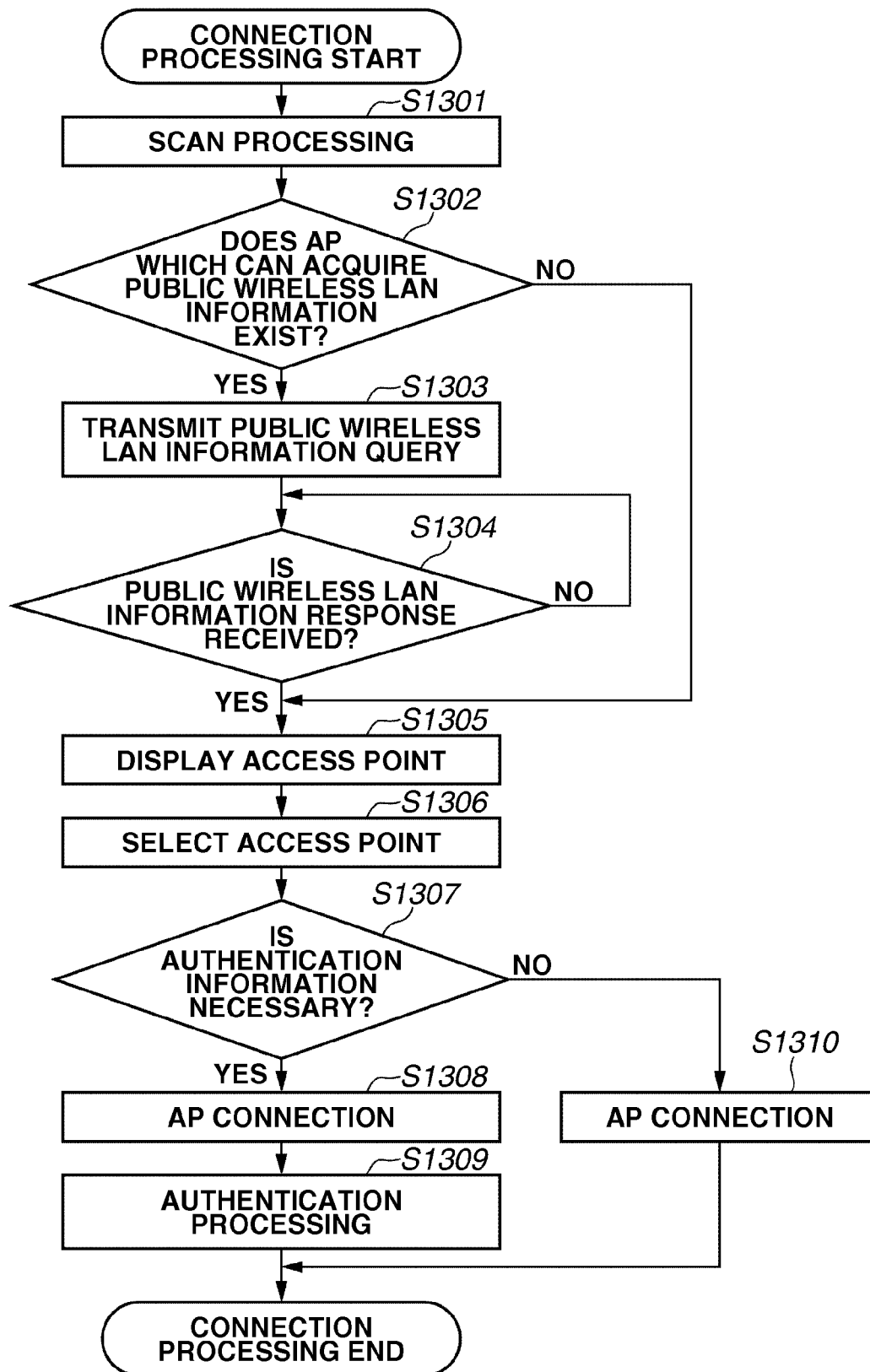


FIG.13

COMMUNICATION APPARATUS AND CONTROL METHOD

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a communication apparatus and a control method.

2. Description of the Related Art

In recent years, many public places such as fast-food shops, railway stations, and airports have been offering public wireless local area network (LAN) services that provide Internet connection services by use of wireless access points. The public wireless LAN services may be free or fee-based depending on the public wireless LAN provider.

Regarding the fee-based public wireless LAN, in most cases, the use of the Internet is permitted only to the users having legitimate authentication information. Whether the user has legitimate authentication information is determined based on authentication information such as a user ID or a password. The legitimate authentication information is provided by a public wireless LAN provider or an Internet service provider (ISP) when the subscription to the service is started. Further, there is also a public wireless LAN service that allows access to a portal site in the public wireless LAN area before the user authentication. When this service is used, the authentication information can be generated on the spot at the portal WEB site.

IEEE 802.11u(TM)-2011 discusses a method by which an access point of the wireless LAN provides information regarding whether the service provided by the public wireless LAN service is free or fee-based before the connection. According to this information, it can be determined whether the public wireless LAN to be connected provides a paid or a free service. If the service is a paid service, it is determined that the authentication information is necessary.

If the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected is not available, it is necessary to generate the authentication information. However, generating the authentication information is not easy for the user. Under such circumstances, US Patent Application Publication No. 2010/0066839 (Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 2008-167269) discusses a technique that automatically generates the authentication information by using apparatus information of a terminal according to cooperation of the terminal and a server.

However, if the authentication information is newly generated in the public wireless LAN area where the acquisition of the authentication information is charged, information necessary for the charging will be necessary in generating the authentication information. The information necessary in the charging is, for example, credit card information. If information such as a credit card number is entered in a web form of a charge system, the charging will be executed. Further, a terminal such as a cellular phone or a smartphone can generate the authentication information without the use of the charge information such as the credit card by using a charge system of the cellular phone.

However, a terminal such as a camera which does not use the above-described charge system needs to use charge information in generating the authentication information. In order to generate fee-based authentication information by the camera alone, it is necessary to connect the camera to a web page used for generating the authentication information and enter charge information using a user interface (UI) of the camera. Entering such charge information is troublesome and annoying for the user. This problem is inherent not only to a camera.

For example, the inconvenience occurs in an apparatus such as a game machine, a printer, a toy, or a health appliance that does not have a UI suitable for inputting the charge information.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to an aspect of the present invention, a communication apparatus detects network information concerning a network that communicates via a base station and performs processing for acquiring or providing authentication information used for authentication with an authentication server via the base station from or to another communication apparatus according to the network information detected by the detection unit.

Further features and aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of exemplary embodiments with reference to the attached drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of the specification, illustrate exemplary embodiments, features, and aspects of the invention and, together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

FIG. 1 illustrates a network configuration of an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a configuration of a camera.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a cellular phone according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 4 is a sequence diagram according to the first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a flowchart illustrating connection processing of the camera according to the first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a flowchart illustrating acquisition processing of authentication information which is performed by the camera according to the first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a flowchart illustrating provision processing of authentication information performed by the cellular phone according to the first exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of the cellular phone according to a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 9 is a sequence diagram according to the second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a flowchart illustrating connection processing performed by the cellular phone according to the second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 11 is a flowchart illustrating provision processing of authentication information performed by the cellular phone according to the second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 12 is a flowchart illustrating acquisition processing of authentication information performed by the camera according to the second exemplary embodiment.

FIG. 13 is a flowchart illustrating connection processing performed by the camera according to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

Various exemplary embodiments, features, and aspects of the invention will be described in detail below with reference to the drawings.

FIG. 1 illustrates a network configuration according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

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The network illustrated in FIG. 1 includes a camera **101**, a cellular phone **102**, a public wireless LAN access point (AP) **103**, an authentication server **106**, and the Internet **107**. Each of the camera **101** and the cellular phone **102** is an example of a communication apparatus and performs various types of processing described below. The AP **103** operates as a base station of a first wireless LAN **104**.

The first wireless LAN **104** is a wireless LAN constructed by the AP **103**. Each of the camera **101** and the cellular phone **102** possesses a wireless LAN function. When the camera **101** and the cellular phone **102** are connected to the first wireless LAN **104**, data communication by the wireless LAN becomes possible.

The AP **103** is connected to the authentication server **106**. When a terminal connected to the AP **103** is connected to the Internet **107**, the AP **103** cooperates with the authentication server **106** and controls access of the terminal by authentication processing. The authentication server **106** manages authentication information of each user or device by a database, and the authentication processing is performed using the information in the database. When the terminal passes the authentication processing by the authentication server **106**, access restriction of the terminal at the AP **103** is cancelled and the connection to the Internet **107** is enabled via the AP **103**.

According to the present embodiment, the authentication server **106** also serves as a server that generates and registers authentication information (e.g., user ID, password) necessary for the authentication. If a terminal that does not possess the authentication information asks for connection to the AP **103**, the access to the AP **103** is controlled so that the terminal is allowed to connect only to a portal site for the generation of the authentication information.

The authentication processing is based on processing such as web-based authentication processing using Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)/Hypertext Transfer Protocol over Secure Socket Layer (HTTPS) and authentication processing executable on a wireless LAN layer of IEEE 802.1X. The authentication processing, however, is not limited to such processing.

The AP **103** provides network information of the first wireless LAN **104** in the form of a beacon or a probe response. The network information at least includes information such as whether the first wireless LAN **104** is a public wireless LAN, whether the first wireless LAN **104** is free or fee-based, and whether authentication information is used for the connection to the Internet. Further, the network information includes information such as a domain name of the provider of the public wireless LAN and realm information such as the name of the ISP.

The terminal compares the domain name or the realm information which has been received, with the authentication information which the terminal possesses, and determines whether the terminal is connectable to the public wireless LAN. In addition to the network information, the AP **103** provides a type of the authentication information. Such information includes, for example, a user ID/password, a certificate, or a subscriber identity module (SIM). Further, if the authentication information is to be newly generated, the APU **103** also provides information regarding whether the authentication information is to be generated in association with the apparatus.

If the authentication information is associated with the apparatus, the authentication information cannot be used unless registered identification information, such as a media access control (MAC) address or a unique ID, of the apparatus that desires to use the authentication information matches the

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authentication information. In the following description, the information concerning the above-described public wireless LAN is referred to as public wireless LAN information.

A second wireless LAN **105** is used for communication between the camera **101** and the cellular phone **102**. According to the present embodiment, the second wireless LAN **105** is described as a wireless LAN. The network mode of the wireless LAN is either the infrastructure mode or the ad hoc mode. If the infrastructure mode is used, either the camera **101** or the cellular phone **102** functions as an access point of the wireless LAN. According to the present embodiment, the ad hoc mode is used as the mode of the wireless LAN.

FIG. 2 is a function block diagram illustrating an example of a configuration of the camera **101**. The camera **101** represents the entire camera. An operation unit **201** is used for operating the camera **101** and includes an operation button. A display unit **202** includes, for example, a liquid crystal display (LCD) or a light-emitting diode (LED) display and displays visually-recognizable information. A power supply unit **203** supplies power to the camera **101**. A control unit **204** controls the entire camera **101** by executing a control program stored in a storage unit **205**.

The storage unit **205** stores various types of information such as the control program executed by the control unit **204** and authentication information. Various operations described below are realized by the control unit **204** executing a control program stored in the storage unit **205**. A transmission/reception unit **206** performs transmission/reception control according to a communication protocol. An antenna **207** is used when wireless LAN communication is performed.

A wireless LAN control unit **208** includes a driver that performs various control such as radio frequency (RF) control of a wireless LAN, wireless LAN communication processing, and control of the wireless LAN that conforms to the IEEE 802.11 series. A network information collecting unit **209** collects network information of a wireless network in the vicinity. The above-described public wireless LAN information is included in the network information.

An authentication information determination unit **210** performs determination processing of the authentication information. A necessity determination unit **211** determines whether authentication information is necessary in using the wireless network to be connected. The necessity determination unit **211** makes the determination based on the information collected by the network information collecting unit **209**.

A possession determination unit **212** determines whether the camera **101** possesses appropriate authentication information if the wireless network to be connected requires authentication. Whether the camera possesses the appropriate authentication information is determined by using the domain name and the realm information of the public wireless LAN included in the network information.

A type determination unit **213** determines the type of the authentication information based on the information collected by the network information collecting unit **209**. Whether the authentication information can be acquired free or fee-based is determined according to this determination of the type of the authentication information. Further, whether a user ID/password, a certificate, or a SIM is used for the authentication is also determined according to the type of the authentication information. Additionally, when the authentication information is newly generated, whether the authentication information is to be associated with the apparatus is also determined.

An authentication information acquisition unit **214** performs acquisition processing of authentication information in cooperation with another terminal. If the authentication infor-

mation is to be newly generated, the authentication information acquisition unit **214** acquires the authentication information.

A capability transmission/reception unit **215** acquires capability information of another terminal and provides capability information of the camera **101** to the terminal. For example, if charge information is necessary in newly generating the authentication information, the capability transmission/reception unit **215** acquires information such as whether another terminal has a charge system and provides information such as whether the camera **101** has a charge system. Further, the capability transmission/reception unit **215** acquires and provides information regarding whether the charge information can be provided to the camera **101**. Additionally, the capability transmission/reception unit **215** acquires information of whether another terminal possesses the authentication information of the wireless LAN to be connected and also provides information of whether the camera **101** possesses the authentication information of the wireless LAN to be connected.

A search unit **216** performs search processing of the cellular phone **102** as a terminal which can acquire the authentication information. A generation unit **217** generates and registers the authentication information with the authentication server when the camera **101** newly generates the authentication information. The authentication information can be generated according to a user operation using a browser but can also be generated by a program including an algorithm that allows automatic generation of the authentication information.

FIG. **3** is an example of a function block diagram of the cellular phone **102**. The cellular phone **102** represents the entire cellular phone. A power supply unit **301** supplies power to the cellular phone **102**. A control unit **302** controls the entire cellular phone **102** by executing a control program stored in a storage unit **303**. The storage unit **303** stores the control program executed by the control unit **302**. Various operations described below are realized by the control unit **302** executing a control program stored in the storage unit **303**.

A transmission/reception unit **304** controls transmission/reception of data according to a communication data protocol. An antenna **305** is used for public network communication and wireless LAN communication. The antenna **305** can be a shared antenna or can be provided for each wireless communication system. A wireless control unit **306** controls the public network communication and the wireless LAN communication. The wireless control unit **306** is, for example, a driver of various wireless communications. The wireless control unit **306** can include a public network communication unit as well as a wireless LAN communication unit. Further, the wireless control unit **306** can include one wireless unit including the functions of a part or whole of the communication units.

A generation unit **307** generates and registers authentication information with the authentication server when generation of new authentication information is necessary. The authentication information can be generated according to a user operation using a browser but can also be generated by a program including an algorithm that allows automatic generation of the authentication information. An authentication information providing unit **308** provides authentication information generated by the generation unit **307** to another apparatus.

When the authentication information is generated and if charging is necessary, a charge processing unit **309** performs charging processing using a cellular phone charge system.

The charge processing unit **309** performs the charging processing in cooperation with a charge server (not shown) of a carrier (communication provider) under contract. A display unit **310** includes, for example, a liquid crystal display (LCD) or a light-emitting diode (LED) display and displays visually-recognizable information. An operation unit **311** is used for operating the cellular phone **102** and includes an operation button for inputting data into the cellular phone **102**. A calling unit **312** is used when the user makes and receives a call. A capability transmission/reception unit **313** notifies another terminal of the capability of the cellular phone **102**.

The function blocks in FIGS. **2** and **3** are examples and a plurality of function blocks can be included in one function block. Further, one function block can be separated into a plurality of function blocks.

The content of processing according to the present embodiment will be described with reference to FIGS. **4** to **7**.

FIG. **4** is a sequence diagram of the apparatuses. FIGS. **5** and **6** are flowcharts illustrating the connection processing and the authentication processing of the camera **101** which is performed according to the control of the control unit **204** based on a computer program stored in the storage unit **205**. FIG. **7** is a flowchart illustrating the provision processing of the authentication information performed by the cellular phone **102** according to the control of the control unit **302** based on a computer program stored in the storage unit **303**.

In step **S501**, before connecting the camera **101** to the first wireless LAN **104**, the network information collecting unit **209** of the camera **101** performs the scan processing of the wireless LAN. According to this scan processing, the network information collecting unit **209** receives a beacon (**M401**) transmitted from the AP **103** and detects the first wireless LAN **104**. Although the mode used in this scanning is passive scan that receives beacon information of the wireless LAN in the vicinity, active scan can also be used. When the active scan is used, a wireless LAN in the vicinity is detected by transmission of a probe request and reception of a probe response.

When the scan processing performed by the network information collecting unit **209** of the camera **101** ends, the processing proceeds to step **S502**. In step **S502**, the control unit **204** determines whether an AP which can provide the public wireless LAN information exists according to the collected scan information. Since an AP capable of providing the public wireless LAN information transmits a beacon or a probe response informing that it can provide such information, the control unit **204** can determine whether an AP which can provide the public wireless LAN information exists according to the beacon or the probe response. If an AP that can provide the public wireless LAN information exists (YES in step **S502**), the processing proceeds to step **S503**. If an AP that can provide the public wireless LAN information does not exist (NO in step **S502**), the processing proceeds to step **S505**. According to the present embodiment, the AP **103** can provide the public wireless LAN information.

In step **S503**, the network information collecting unit **209** transmits a public wireless LAN information query (**M402**) to the AP **103** so that it can acquire detailed information of the public wireless LAN including the authentication information.

In step **S504**, the control unit **204** determines whether the network information collecting unit **209** has received a public wireless LAN information response (**M403**). If a plurality of APs that can acquire the public wireless LAN information exists, the public wireless LAN information query is transmitted to all of such APs.

If the control unit **204** of the camera **101** detects the public wireless LAN information response (**M403**) sent from the AP

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103 (YES in step **S504**), the processing proceeds to step **S505**. Since the public wireless LAN information response includes the public wireless LAN information, the network information collecting unit **209** can obtain the public wireless LAN information from the public wireless LAN information response.

In step **S505**, the control unit **204** displays the collected wireless LAN information on the display unit **202** so that the user can select the wireless LAN to be connected. For example, the control unit **204** displays a service set identifier (SSID) which is a network identifier of the collected wireless LAN. Instead of the user selecting the wireless LAN to be connected, the wireless LAN can be automatically selected by a program. For example, an AP having the strongest radio wave strength can be automatically selected. When a wireless LAN to be connected is selected via the camera **101**, the processing proceeds to step **S506**. Before the information of the wireless LAN is displayed on the display unit, the type determination unit **213** determines the type of the authentication information to be displayed from the collected information. Then, when the wireless LAN is displayed, a wireless LAN that requires the authentication information in the SIM form is grayed out or not displayed. This is because, if the authentication information in the SIM form is necessary, only a cellular phone using a SIM card storing the authentication information can be connected. Accordingly, the camera **101** cannot be connected to the wireless LAN.

In step **S506**, the necessity determination unit **211** determines whether the authentication information is necessary in the connection to the selected wireless LAN. Whether the authentication information is necessary is determined based on the information regarding the authentication included in the public wireless LAN information which has been collected. If the AP to be connected is an AP of a public wireless LAN but is unable to acquire public wireless LAN information, whether the authentication is necessary can be determined according to the SSID. In this case, information regarding whether the authentication is necessary is to be stored in advance in association with the SSID. If the necessity determination unit **211** determines that the authentication information is necessary (YES in step **S506**), the processing proceeds to step **S507**. If the necessity determination unit **211** determines that the authentication information is unnecessary (NO in step **S506**), the processing proceeds to step **S513**. In step **S513**, the camera **101** is connected to the AP **103** by the wireless LAN and then the connection processing ends. After the camera **101** is connected to the AP **103**, it can be connected to the Internet **107** via the AP **103**.

In step **S507**, the possession determination unit **212** determines whether the camera **101** possesses the authentication information necessary in the connection to the selected public wireless LAN. This determination is performed using the realm information included in the collected public wireless LAN information. In other words, the possession determination unit **212** determines whether the camera **101** possesses the necessary authentication information depending on whether the camera **101** has the authentication information corresponding to the realm information. If the public wireless LAN information cannot be acquired from the AP to be connected, the determination can be performed based on the realm information which is associated with the SSID and stored in advance.

If the camera **101** does not possess the corresponding authentication information (NO in step **S507**), the processing proceeds to step **S508**. If the camera **101** possesses the corresponding authentication information (YES in step **S507**), the processing proceeds to step **S511**. In step **S511**, the cam-

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era **101** is connected to the AP **103** by the wireless LAN, and the processing proceeds to step **S512**. In step **S512**, the control unit **204** performs the authentication processing with the authentication server **106**. When the authentication is successfully completed, the connection processing ends. After the camera **101** is connected to the AP **103**, the camera can access the Internet **107** via the AP **103**.

In step **S508**, the control unit **204** performs the acquisition processing of the authentication information. The acquisition processing of the authentication information will be described with reference to FIG. 6. Further, the processing performed by the cellular phone **102** will be described with reference to FIG. 7.

In step **S601**, the search unit **216** searches the cellular phone **102** as a terminal that can acquire the authentication information. The search unit **216** automatically searches the cellular phone **102** by using a SSID set in the camera **101** in advance. The SSID is associated with a wireless LAN and can be connected to the cellular phone **102**. If a wireless LAN of the SSID exists in the vicinity, the search unit **216** determines that the cellular phone **102** is in the vicinity. The method for searching the cellular phone is not limited to such a method. A different method can be used so long as the existence of the cellular phone **102** can be detected by the camera **101**.

In step **S602**, the control unit **204** determines whether the cellular phone is found. If the cellular phone is not found in this search (NO in step **S602**), the processing proceeds to step **S603**. In step **S603**, the notification processing is performed. According to this notification processing, for example, a message such as "Connect camera to cellular phone by wireless LAN and acquire authentication information of public wireless LAN" is displayed. In such a case, according to the present embodiment, after step **S603**, although the acquisition processing of the authentication information is finished, depending on the connection operation of the user regarding the cellular phone, the processing may return to step **S601**, and the cellular phone search processing can be performed again. Further, in step **S603**, the camera **101** can display a message notifying the user that the authentication information can be generated by entering charge information such as credit card information and ask the user to determine whether to generate the information.

Further, a message indicating that the camera is connected to a cellular phone by a wireless LAN or a message asking the user to acquire authentication information of the public wireless LAN using a cellular phone may be displayed before the search processing in step **S601**. If such a message is displayed and the user designates the connection with the cellular phone, the search processing of the cellular phone **102** is performed in step **S601**.

In step **S602**, if the cellular phone **102** is found (YES in step **S602**), the processing proceeds to step **S604**. In step **S604**, the camera **101** is connected to the cellular phone **102** by the wireless LAN under control of the wireless LAN control unit **208**. According to the present embodiment, a parameter necessary in the connection to the wireless LAN is stored in advance in the camera **101** as well as the cellular phone **102**. As a detection method of the second wireless LAN **105**, either the camera **101** or the cellular phone **102** can establish the second wireless LAN **105** at regular intervals. In such a case, the apparatus that did not establish the second wireless LAN **105** can detect the second wireless LAN **105**. Further, a UI of either the camera **101** or the cellular phone **102** may notify the user to connect to the other apparatus by the second wireless LAN **105**. In such a case, based on the user operation, the second wireless LAN **105** is detected and the apparatuses are mutually connected by the wireless LAN.

Further, in step S604, the camera 101 and the cellular phone 102 can execute a parameter setting method called Wi-Fi Protected Setup (WPS). When such a method is executed, the camera 101 and the cellular phone 102 can be connected using a shared wireless parameter.

After the camera 101 is connected to the cellular phone 102, the processing proceeds to step S605. In step S605, the capability transmission/reception unit 215 transmits the public wireless LAN information of the public wireless LAN which has been selected in step S505 to the cellular phone 102. Further, the capability transmission/reception unit 215 transmits a request for apparatus capability information to the cellular phone 102 and receives the apparatus capability information of the cellular phone 102 (M405).

On the side of the cellular phone 102, in step S701, the control unit 302 determines whether the cellular phone 102 is connected to the camera 101 by the wireless LAN under control of the wireless LAN control unit 306. If the cellular phone 102 is connected to the camera 101 (YES in step S701), the processing proceeds to step S702. If the cellular phone 102 is not yet connected to the camera 101 (NO in step S701), step S701 is repeated. In step S702, the control unit 302 determines whether the capability transmission/reception unit 313 has received the request for apparatus capability acquisition from the camera 101. If the request is received (YES in step S702), the processing proceeds to step S703. If the request is not yet received (NO in step S702), step S702 is repeated. In step S703, the apparatus capability information of the cellular phone 102 is transmitted to the camera 101. Before the apparatus capability acquisition information is transmitted to the camera, authentication of whether the camera 101 is a correct terminal can be performed.

The apparatus capability information includes information such as whether the cellular phone 102 possesses the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected, whether the charge system of the cellular phone 102 can be used, and whether the cellular phone 102 can provide the charge information to another terminal. Whether the charge system of the cellular phone can be used is determined by the cellular phone 102 and the result is notified to the camera 101. The cellular phone 102 makes the determination based on whether the charges can be implemented in the charges of the charge system when a fee is charged.

Whether the cellular phone 102 can provide the charge information to another apparatus is included in credit card information stored in the cellular phone 102. If the credit card information can be provided to another apparatus, the cellular phone 102 determines that the charge information can be provided to another apparatus. Further, whether the charge information can be provided to another apparatus can be determined based on whether the information necessary in the charging of the charge system can be provided to another apparatus when the charging is performed. The information necessary in the charging of the charge system is, for example, SIM information. However, such information is not limited to the SIM information.

Referring back again to FIG. 6, after acquiring the apparatus capability information, the camera 101 performs determination processing based on the apparatus capability information of the cellular phone 102.

In step S606, the authentication information determination unit 210 determines whether it is necessary to newly generate the authentication information based on the determination by the possession determination unit 212. If the cellular phone 102 possesses the authentication information corresponding to the realm information of the public wireless LAN to be connected (NO in step S606), the processing proceeds to step

S607. In step S607, in order to obtain the authentication information from the cellular phone 102, the authentication information acquisition unit 214 sends a transfer request for the authentication information to the cellular phone 102.

Referring back again to FIG. 7, in step S704, the control unit 302 determines whether the authentication information providing unit 308 of the cellular phone 102 has received the transfer request for the authentication information. If the request is received (YES in step S704), the processing proceeds to step S713. If the request is not yet received (NO in step S704), the processing proceeds to step S705. In step S713, the authentication information providing unit 308 transfers the authentication information which corresponds to the realm information of the public wireless LAN to which the camera 101 is to be connected out of the authentication information which the cellular phone 102 possesses. If a plurality piece of corresponding information exists, all of such information can be transmitted to the camera 101 or the authentication information appropriate for the camera 101 can be selected from such information and transferred to the camera 101. After the authentication information is transferred to the camera 101, the processing proceeds to step S714. In step S714, the wireless LAN connection with the camera 101 is disconnected.

Referring back again to FIG. 6, in step S608, the camera 101 receives the authentication information. In step S614, the wireless LAN connection with the cellular phone 102 is disconnected.

In step S606, if the cellular phone 102 does not possess the authentication information corresponding to the realm information of the public wireless LAN to be connected, the authentication information determination unit 210 determines that the authentication information is to be newly generated (YES in step S606), and the processing proceeds to step S609. In step S609, a type determination unit 213 determines whether the public wireless LAN to be connected is fee-based based on the acquired public wireless LAN information. If the public wireless LAN to be connected is fee-based, it is determined that charge information is necessary when the authentication information is generated. If the public wireless LAN to be connected is free (NO in step S609), the processing proceeds to step S610.

In step S610, the authentication information determination unit 210 determines whether the authentication information can be generated by the camera 101 alone.

If the public wireless LAN to be connected is free and the generation of the authentication information is necessary, since the charge information is not necessary, the authentication information may be generated by the camera 101 alone. This is a case where, for example, only the generation processing of the authentication information is necessary. For example, if the camera possesses an automated generation algorithm of the authentication information or a browser function, the authentication information can be generated by the camera alone. Thus, in such a case, it is determined that the authentication information can be generated by the camera 101 alone.

After the authentication information is generated, in some cases, the user is asked to register the authentication information via a designated registration page. A uniform resource locator (URL) of the registration page is sent from the server by an e-mail. In this case, if the camera 101 does not possess the mail function, since the authentication information cannot be generated by the camera alone, it is determined that the generation of the authentication information is not possible by the camera 101 alone.

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As a method for the determination by the camera **101**, for example, if a function necessary in the generation of the authentication information is provided by the AP **103** as extended information of the public wireless LAN information, for example, the camera **101** can make the determination by receiving the extended information and comparing it with the function which the camera **101** possesses. The functions necessary in the generation of the authentication information are, for example, a mail function and a browser function.

If it is determined that the authentication information can be generated by the camera alone (YES in step **S610**), the processing proceeds to step **S617**. If it is determined that the authentication information cannot be generated by the camera alone or if it is not possible to determine whether the authentication information can be generated (NO in step **S610**), the processing proceeds to step **S612**. However, if it is determined that the public wireless LAN to be connected is free in step **S609**, it may be determined in step **S610** that the authentication information is to be unconditionally generated by the camera **101**.

In step **S609**, if the public wireless LAN to be connected is fee-based (YES in step **S609**), the processing proceeds to step **S611**. In step **S611**, the authentication information determination unit **210** determines whether the authentication information is to be generated by the camera **101**.

According to the present embodiment, whether the authentication information is to be generated by the camera **101** is determined based on the information of whether the authentication information is to be generated in association with the apparatus. Such information is included in the public wireless LAN information. However, if it is determined that the public wireless LAN to be connected is charged in step **S609**, it can be determined in step **S611** that the charge information is necessary in the generation of the authentication information. In such a case, it may be determined that the authentication information is to be unconditionally generated by the cellular phone **102**.

In step **S611**, if the authentication information is to be generated in association with the apparatus information, it is determined that the authentication information is to be generated by the camera **101** (YES in step **S611**), and the processing proceeds to step **S615**. If the authentication information does not need to be generated in association with the apparatus information, since the generation of the authentication information by the camera **101** is unnecessary (NO in step **S611**), the processing proceeds to step **S612**.

In step **S612**, since the authentication information is to be generated by the cellular phone **102**, the authentication information acquisition unit **214** transmits the authentication information generation request (**M406**) to the cellular phone **102**. Together with the generation request, information such as SSID and Basic Service Set Identifier (BSSID) of the AP **103** which has been selected by the user of the camera **101**, the public wireless LAN information, and information of the authentication server **106** such as the URL is transferred to the cellular phone **102**. Accordingly, the cellular phone **102** does not need to select the public wireless LAN to be connected.

Referring back again to FIG. 7, in step **S705**, the control unit **302** determines whether the authentication information generation request has been received by the cellular phone **102**. If the request is received (YES in step **S705**), the processing proceeds to step **S706**.

If the cellular phone **102** does not receive the authentication information generation request within a predetermined period of time or receives a message indicating that the generation of the authentication information is unnecessary (NO in step **S705**), the processing proceeds to step **S714**. In step

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S714, the control unit **302** disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the camera **101**. Then, the provision processing of the authentication information ends.

In step **S706**, the control unit **302** disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the camera **101**, and the processing proceeds to step **S707**. In step **S707**, according to the control of the wireless control unit **306**, the cellular phone **102** is connected to the AP **103** by the wireless LAN using the information of the AP **103** to be connected obtained from the camera **101** and the public wireless LAN connection information. Then, the cellular phone **102** communicates with the authentication server **106** connected to the AP **103** via the AP **103**.

In step **S708**, the generation unit **307** generates the authentication information. The authentication information can be generated by a program including an algorithm that allows automatic generation of the authentication information but can be manually generated by the user. If registration using the mail function is necessary in generating the authentication information, the cellular phone **102** receives the mail and the registration processing of the authentication information is performed.

When the generation of the authentication information ends, the processing proceeds to step **S709**. In step **S709**, the wireless LAN connection with the AP **103** is disconnected. In step **S710**, the cellular phone **102** is connected again to the camera **101** by the wireless LAN. In step **S711**, the authentication information providing unit **308** provides a message (**M413**) including the generation result of the authentication information to the camera **101**. If the generation of the authentication information is successful, the authentication information is transmitted to the camera **101** together with the message. Then, the processing proceeds to step **S712**.

In step **S613**, the control unit **204** determines whether the generation result is received by the authentication information acquisition unit **214** of the camera **101**. If the generation result is received (YES in step **S613**), the processing proceeds to step **S614**. Further, if the generation is successful, the control unit **204** sets the authentication information, which has been sent together with the result, to the camera **101**.

In step **S712**, the control unit **302** of the cellular phone **102** disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the camera **101**, and the provision processing of the authentication information ends. Similarly, in step **S614**, the camera **101** disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the cellular phone **102**.

In step **S615**, the authentication information determination unit **210** determines whether the information necessary in the generation of the authentication information by the camera **101** can be obtained from the cellular phone **102**.

The information necessary in the generation of the authentication information is, for example, charge information. If charge information of, for example, a credit card is stored in the cellular phone **102**, the authentication information determination unit **210** determines whether the information of the credit card can be obtained. Further, if a charge system is used, it is determined whether charge information (e.g., SIM information) necessary in the charge system can be obtained from the cellular phone **102**. If the information necessary for the generation of the authentication information cannot be obtained from the cellular phone **102** (NO in step **S615**), the processing proceeds to step **S614**. In step **S614**, the control unit **204** disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the cellular phone **102**. Then, the authentication information acquisition processing ends.

In step **S615**, if the information necessary for the generation of the authentication information can be obtained (YES

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in step S615), the authentication information acquisition unit 214 obtains the information necessary for the generation of the authentication information from the cellular phone 102, and the processing proceeds to step S616.

In step S616, the control unit 204 disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the cellular phone 102. In step S617, the control unit 204 connects the camera 101 again to the AP 103 by the wireless LAN. Then, the camera 101 is connected to the authentication server 106 via the AP 103. In step S618, the generation unit 217 generates the authentication information using the information acquired from the cellular phone 102. The authentication information can be automatically generated by using an algorithm or generated manually by an operation of the user of the camera 101. After the generation processing is completed, the processing proceeds to step S619. In step S619, the wireless LAN connection with the AP 103 is disconnected. Then, the authentication information acquisition processing ends.

Referring back again to the flowchart in FIG. 5, when the authentication information acquisition processing of the camera 101 ends, the processing proceeds to step S509. In step S509, the control unit 204 determines whether the camera 101 has acquired or generated the authentication information. If the camera 101 has not acquired or generated the authentication information (NO in step S509), the processing proceeds to step S510. In step S510, the control unit 204 performs error processing. As the error processing, for example, the display unit 202 of the camera 101 displays a message notifying the user of an error. The error processing, however, is not limited to such notification and, for example, if the public wireless LAN to be connected is fee-based, the user may be asked to input the charge information using the camera 101. Then, the authentication information generation processing can be performed.

In step S509, if the authentication information is acquired or newly generated (YES in step S509), the processing proceeds to step S511. In step S511, the camera 101 is connected to the AP 103 by the wireless LAN. In step S512, by using the authentication information, the control unit 204 performs the authentication processing with the authentication server 106 via the AP 103. If the authentication with the authentication server 106 is successful, the camera 101 can be connected to the Internet 107 via the AP 103.

According to the present embodiment, even if the camera 101 does not possess the authentication information necessary for the connection of the camera 101 to the public wireless LAN, the authentication information can be simply acquired by cooperating with the cellular phone 102. Especially, if the generation of the authentication information is not free, since the user of the camera 101 does not need to input the charge information in generating the authentication information, the load of the user is reduced.

Further, according to the present embodiment, when the SSID of the connectable public wireless LAN is displayed on the display of the camera 101 and the user selects the public wireless LAN to be connected in step S505, if it is determined that a cellular phone does not exist in the vicinity, the SSID of the public wireless LAN whose authentication information is not possessed may not be displayed or gray-out.

Whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity is determined using, for example, a SSID of the second wireless LAN 105 of the camera 101 and the cellular phone 102. More precisely, the SSID of the second wireless LAN 105 is stored in advance in the camera 101 and when the scan processing is performed in step S501, whether the SSID of the second wireless LAN 105 is found is determined.

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Further, if the terminal in the vicinity provides information of its device type by a frame of the wireless LAN, whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity can be determined by using the device type. Furthermore, whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity can be determined by obtaining history information regarding the connection with the cellular phone over the wireless LAN. In this case, if the time that passed from the latest disconnection is within a defined period of time, it is assumed that a cellular phone exists in the vicinity.

According to the description above, authentication information used for the authentication with the authentication server can be acquired from another communication apparatus. Even if the user interface of the apparatus is not appropriate for the input operation, network authentication using the authentication information can be performed.

According to the first exemplary embodiment, the connection processing is started by the camera 101. According to a second exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the connection processing is started by the cellular phone 102.

Since the network configuration according to the present embodiment is similar to the one illustrated in FIG. 1, the configuration is not described.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of the cellular phone 102 according to the present embodiment. Since the function blocks 301 to 312 are similar to those illustrated in FIG. 3, their descriptions are not repeated. The function blocks 801 to 805 are similar to the function blocks 209 to 213 of the camera 101 illustrated in FIG. 2. Further, a capability transmission/reception unit 806 is a function block similar to the capability transmission/reception unit 215 of the camera 101 in FIG. 2.

Further, since the function blocks of the camera 101 are similar to those illustrated in FIG. 2, or similar to the function blocks in FIG. 2 but excluding the function blocks 210 to 213 and 215, their descriptions are not repeated. The above-described function blocks are examples and a plurality of function blocks can be included in one function block. Further, one function block can be separated into a plurality of function blocks.

FIG. 9 is a sequence diagram of the apparatuses.

FIGS. 10 and 11 are flowcharts illustrating the connection processing of the cellular phone 102 which is performed under control of the control unit 302 based on a computer program stored in the storage unit 303 according to the present embodiment.

FIG. 12 is a flowchart illustrating the authentication information acquisition processing of the camera 101 which is performed under control of the control unit 204 based on a computer program stored in the storage unit 205 according to the present embodiment.

In step S1001, before connecting the cellular phone 102 to the first wireless LAN 104, a network information collecting unit 801 of the cellular phone 102 performs the scan processing of the wireless LAN. Since steps S1001 to S1006 are similar to steps S501 to S506 of the camera 101 according to the first exemplary embodiment, their descriptions are not repeated. According to the present embodiment, the cellular phone 102 is connected to the AP 103.

In step S1006, if the control unit 302 determines that the authentication information is necessary in connecting the cellular phone 102 to the wireless LAN (YES in step S1006), the processing proceeds to step S1008. If the control unit 302 determines that the authentication information is unnecessary (NO in step S1006), the processing proceeds to step S1007. In step S1007, the cellular phone 102 is connected to the AP 103, and then the connection processing ends.

In step S1008, the authentication information providing unit 308 determines whether the authentication information

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can be provided to another apparatus. According to the present embodiment, a message asking the user to determine whether the authentication information used in the connection can be provided to another apparatus is displayed on the display unit of the cellular phone 102 and the user makes the determination. If a device that provides the authentication information is integrated in the cellular phone 102 in advance, it can be determined that the authentication information is provided to the device.

In step S1008, if the authentication information providing unit 308 determines that the authentication information is not provided to another apparatus (NO in step S1008), the processing proceeds to step S1009. If it is determined that the authentication information can be provided to another apparatus (YES in step S1008), the processing proceeds to step S1015.

In step S1009, a possession determination unit 804 determines whether the cellular phone 102 possesses the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected. If the cellular phone 102 possesses the authentication information (YES in step S1009), the processing proceeds to step S1010. If the cellular phone 102 does not possess the authentication information (NO in step S1009), the processing proceeds to step S1012. In step S1012, the generation unit 307 performs the authentication information generation processing. The generation processing of the authentication information performed by the cellular phone 102 alone uses a browser or an automated generation algorithm.

In step S1013, the control unit 302 determines whether the authentication information has been successfully generated according to the generation processing of the authentication information. If the authentication information is generated (YES in step S1013), the processing proceeds to step S1010. If the authentication information is not generated (NO in step S1013), the processing proceeds to step S1014. In step S1010, the cellular phone 102 is connected to the AP 103 by the wireless LAN using the authentication information which the cellular phone 102 possesses or the authentication information which has been generated. In step S1011, the authentication processing is performed and the connection processing is performed. In step S1014, the error processing such as the error notification is performed. Then, the connection processing ends.

In step S1015, the provision processing of the authentication information is performed. The provision processing performed by the cellular phone 102 is described with reference to FIG. 11. Further, the provision processing performed by the camera 101 is described with reference to FIG. 12.

In step S1101, the control unit 302 determines whether the cellular phone 102 is connected to another apparatus (the camera 101 according to the present embodiment) by the wireless LAN. Similarly, in step S1201, the control unit 204 determines whether the camera 101 is connected to the cellular phone 102 by the wireless LAN. Since the wireless LAN connection processing of the camera 101 and the cellular phone 102 according to the present embodiment is realized by processing similar to the connection processing according to the first exemplary embodiment, detailed descriptions of such processing are not repeated.

In step S1102, after the connection with the camera 101 by the second wireless LAN 105, the cellular phone 102 obtains the capability information of the camera 101 via the capability transmission/reception unit 806. More precisely, the capability transmission/reception unit 806 of the cellular phone 102 transmits a request for the capability information to the camera 101. In step S1202, the control unit 204 determines whether the camera 101 has received the request for the

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capability information (M905). If the control unit 204 determines that the camera 101 has received the request (YES in step S1202), the processing proceeds to step S1203. In step S1203, the capability transmission/reception unit 215 transmits the capability information to the cellular phone 102.

The capability information includes realm information of the authentication information which the camera 101 possesses as well as the function information which the camera 101 possesses. The function information includes information of the mail function and the browser function.

In step S1103, the possession determination unit 804 of the cellular phone 102 determines whether the camera 101 possesses the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected. In other words, the possession determination unit 804 compares the realm information of the authentication information which the camera 101 possesses and the collected public wireless LAN information and determines whether the camera 101 possesses the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected. If the camera 101 possesses the authentication information (YES in step S1103), the processing proceeds to step S1104. In step S1104, the notification processing is performed. As the notification processing, for example, a message such as "the camera 101 already possesses authentication information" is displayed on the display unit. After the notification processing, the processing proceeds to step S1115.

If the camera 101 does not possess the authentication information (NO in step S1103), the processing proceeds to step S1105. In step S1105, the possession determination unit 804 of the cellular phone 102 determines whether the cellular phone 102 possesses the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected. If the cellular phone 102 possesses the authentication information (YES in step S1105), the processing proceeds to step S1114. If the cellular phone 102 does not possess the authentication information (NO in step S1105), the processing proceeds to step S1106.

In step S1106, the type determination unit 805 of the cellular phone 102 performs the type determination processing of the authentication information of the public wireless LAN to be connected. According to the type determination processing of the authentication information, it is determined whether the authentication information to be generated is to be associated with the apparatus. In other words, it is determined whether the authentication information to be generated is to be associated with the apparatus based on the collected public wireless LAN information. If the authentication information is to be associated with the apparatus, the authentication information is to be generated by the camera 101. Further, before the authentication information is generated, information necessary in the generation (e.g., charge information) is extracted from the public wireless LAN information and whether the extracted information can be provided to the camera 101 is determined. If the information necessary in the generation can be provided to the camera 101, it is determined that the authentication information will be generated by the camera 101. If the information necessary in the generation cannot be provided to the camera 101, a message indicating that the authentication information cannot be provided to the camera 101 can be displayed, at that time, on the display unit of the camera.

If the authentication information is not associated with the apparatus, it is determined that the authentication information will be generated by the cellular phone 102.

In step S1107, the control unit 302 determines whether the authentication information is to be generated by the camera 101 according to the determination result of the type of the authentication information. If the authentication information

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is to be generated by the camera **101** (YES in step **S1107**), the processing proceeds to step **S1108**. If the authentication information is to be generated by the cellular phone **102** (NO in step **S1107**), the processing proceeds to step **S1109**.

In step **S1108**, the authentication information providing unit **308** transmits an authentication information generation request to the camera **101** to the effect that the authentication information is to be generated by the camera **101**. In addition to the information necessary in the generation of authentication information, the request includes information (SSID, BSSID) of the AP **103** of the public wireless LAN to be connected. After the transmission of the request, the processing proceeds to step **S1115**.

In step **S1204**, the control unit **204** determines whether the camera **101** has received the authentication information generation request. If the camera **101** has received the authentication information generation request (YES in step **S1204**), the processing proceeds to step **S1205**. If the camera **101** has not yet received the authentication information generation request (NO in step **S1204**), the processing proceeds to step **S1210**. In step **S1205**, the camera **101** disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the cellular phone **102**, and the processing proceeds to step **S1206**. In step **S1206**, based on the information of the AP **103**, the control unit **204** connects the camera **101** to the AP **103** by the wireless LAN. Further, the camera **101** is connected to the authentication server **106** via the AP **103**.

In step **S1207**, after the connection with the authentication server **106**, the generation unit **217** generates the authentication information. If the generation unit fails in generating the authentication information, a message notifying the user of the error can be displayed. In step **S1208**, the generated authentication information is stored. In step **S1209**, the wireless LAN connection with the AP **103** is disconnected, and the acquisition processing of the authentication information ends.

In step **S1109**, the wireless LAN connection with the camera **101** is disconnected. Then, the processing proceeds to step **S1110**. In step **S1110**, the control unit **302** connects the cellular phone **102** to the AP **103** by the wireless LAN. Then, the cellular phone **102** is connected to the authentication server **106** via the AP **103**. In step **S1111**, the generation unit **307** generates the authentication information. After the generation of the authentication information, the processing proceeds to step **S1112**. In step **S1112**, the wireless LAN connection with the AP **103** is disconnected. In step **S1113**, again the control unit **302** connects the cellular phone **102** to the camera **101** by the wireless LAN. Then, the processing proceeds to step **S1114**. In step **S1114**, the authentication information providing unit **308** provides the generated authentication information to the camera **101**.

In step **S1210**, the control unit **204** determines whether the authentication information acquisition unit **214** of the camera **101** has received the authentication information. If the authentication information is received (YES in step **S1210**), the processing proceeds to step **S1211**. If the authentication information is not received in a predetermined period of time or a message indicating that the acquisition of the authentication information has failed is received (NO in step **S1210**), the processing proceeds to step **S1212**. In step **S1211**, the control unit **204** stores the received authentication information. In step **S1212**, the wireless LAN connection with the cellular phone **102** is disconnected. Then, the authentication information acquisition processing ends.

Similarly, in step **S1115**, the cellular phone **102** also disconnects the wireless LAN connection with the camera **101**, and then the authentication information provision processing

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ends. By using the acquired authentication information, the camera **101** can be connected to the AP **103** by the wireless LAN. When the authentication processing is performed with the authentication server **106** and if the authentication is successful, the camera **101** can access the Internet **107**.

According to the present embodiment, even if the connection processing is started by the cellular phone **102**, the authentication information necessary in the connection to the public wireless LAN can be provided to the camera **101**.

According to the present embodiment, after the control unit **302** of the cellular phone **102** determines whether the authentication information is necessary in step

S1006, whether the authentication information can be provided to another apparatus is determined in step **S1008**. However, the determination can be made at different timing. For example, if the authentication information processing is performed in step **S1012** and the authentication information is successfully generated, whether the authentication information can be provided to another apparatus can be determined at that time. If the authentication information is associated with the apparatus, since the authentication information cannot be provided to another apparatus, the determination processing of whether the authentication information can be provided to another apparatus is not performed.

Further, whether to provide the authentication information to another apparatus can be determined before the connection processing is started. In this case, step **S1008** is skipped and the provision processing of authentication information in step **S1015** is performed.

Although the terminal that generates the authentication information is determined by the apparatus that starts the connection processing (the camera **101** or the cellular phone **102**) according to the exemplary embodiments described above, the generation terminal of the authentication information can be determined by another apparatus (the cellular phone **102** or the camera **101**). In such a case, after the wireless LAN connection with another apparatus, the public wireless LAN information of the public wireless LAN which has been selected as the wireless LAN to be connected by the apparatus that started the connection processing and the apparatus capability information of the apparatus that started the connection processing is transmitted to the other apparatus. Based on the public wireless LAN information, the apparatus capability information which the apparatus that started the connection processing possesses, and the apparatus capability information of another apparatus, the determination processing is performed by another apparatus.

Accordingly, the authentication information used for the authentication with the authentication server can be acquired from another communication apparatus. Thus, even if the user interface of the apparatus is not appropriate for the input operation, the network authentication can be performed using the authentication information. Further, since the processing for determining the terminal which is to generate the authentication information does not need to be performed by the apparatus that started the connection processing, the processing load of the apparatus that started the connection processing can be reduced.

According to a third exemplary embodiment of the present invention, when the SSID of the connectable public wireless LAN is displayed on the display of the camera **101** and the user selects the public wireless LAN to be connected in step **S505**, if it is determined that a cellular phone does not exist in the vicinity, the SSID of the public wireless LAN whose authentication information is not possessed is not displayed.

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The network configuration according to the third exemplary embodiment is similar to the configuration illustrated in FIG. 1 except that the cellular phone 102 is not included in the network configuration.

FIG. 13 is a flowchart illustrating the connection processing of the camera 101 according to the present embodiment. Since steps S1301 to S1304 are similar to steps S501 to S504 in FIG. 5 according to the first exemplary embodiment, their descriptions are not repeated.

In step S1305, the control unit 204 displays the public wireless LAN information to be connected on the display unit 202 when the public wireless LAN to be connected is displayed, whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity is determined.

Whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity is determined, for example, by using a SSID of the second wireless LAN 105 of the camera 101 and the cellular phone 102. The SSID of the second wireless LAN 105 is stored in advance in the camera 101. When the scan processing in step S1301 is performed, whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity is determined according to whether the SSID of the second wireless LAN 105 is found. Instead, the scan processing can be performed again.

If the terminal in the vicinity provides information of its device type by a frame of the wireless LAN, whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity can be determined according to the device type.

Further, whether a cellular phone exists in the vicinity can be determined by obtaining history information regarding the connection with the cellular phone over the wireless LAN. In this case, if the time that passed from the latest disconnection is within a predetermined period of time, it is assumed that a cellular phone exists in the vicinity.

If a cellular phone does not exist in the vicinity, the SSID of the public wireless LAN whose authentication information is not possessed is not displayed as the public wireless LAN which can be connected.

The SSID of the public wireless LAN that possesses the authentication information and the SSID of the public wireless LAN that does not require the authentication information are displayed as the SSIDs of the public wireless LAN which can be connected. When these SSIDs are displayed, they can be displayed together with a wireless LAN which is not a public wireless LAN.

Further, regarding the display of the public wireless which can be connected, even if the authentication information is not possessed, whether the authentication information can be generated by the camera 101 alone is determined based on the public wireless LAN information, and the SSID of the AP of the public wireless LAN whose authentication information can be generated can be displayed.

If it is determined that a cellular phone exists in the vicinity, a SSID of a public wireless LAN which does not possess the authentication information can also be displayed as a SSID of a connectable public wireless LAN.

Regarding the display method, a SSID of a public wireless LAN whose authentication information is not possessed may be in a gray-out state when it is displayed such that it cannot be selected by the user.

Since steps S1306 to S1310 correspond to steps S505 to S506 and steps S511 to S513 according to the first exemplary embodiment, their descriptions are not repeated.

According to the above-described exemplary embodiment, the authentication information used for the authentication with the authentication server can be acquired from another communication apparatus. Thus, even if the user interface of the apparatus is not appropriate for the input operation, the

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network authentication can be performed using the authentication information. Further, by determining that the generation of the authentication information by the camera 101 is difficult in advance, the generation processing of the authentication information by the camera 101 will become unnecessary. Accordingly, the user does not need to perform useless operation.

According to each of the above-described exemplary embodiments, although a wireless LAN that conforms to IEEE 802.11 is used for the wireless communication between the camera and the cellular phone, the present invention is not limited to the example described above. For example, a wireless communication medium for wireless universal serial bus (USB), Multiband Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (OFDM) Alliance (MBOA), Bluetooth (registered trademark), Ultra-wideband (UWB), ZigBee, and Near Field Communication can be used. Further, a wired communication medium such as a wired LAN can be used between the camera and the cellular phone. The UWB includes wireless USB, wireless 1394, and WiNET.

In each of the above-described exemplary embodiments, although a cellular phone is used as an example of a mobile terminal used for generating the authentication information, the mobile terminal is not limited to a cellular phone. For example, a smartphone or a personal handyphone system (PHS), or a computer can be used. Further, although a camera is described as an example of an apparatus that acquires the authentication information, the apparatus can be, for example, a game machine, a printer, a toy, or a health appliance.

Further, according to each of the above-described exemplary embodiments, although the authentication server 106 can generate and register the authentication information as its functions, an authentication information generation server which generates and registers the authentication information can be used in addition to the authentication server 106. In such a case, although the generation of the authentication information will be performed by the authentication information generation server, regarding the authentication processing performed with the authentication server 106 in the preceding stage, the camera 101 can be temporarily authenticated by using arbitrary authentication information. In such a case, the camera 101 is permitted to access only the authentication information generation server. By using such a method, the present embodiment can also be applied.

Other Embodiments

Embodiments of the present invention can also be realized by a computer of a system or apparatus that reads out and executes computer executable instructions recorded on a storage medium (e.g., non-transitory computer-readable storage medium) to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s) of the present invention, and by a method performed by the computer of the system or apparatus by, for example, reading out and executing the computer executable instructions from the storage medium to perform the functions of one or more of the above-described embodiment(s). The computer may comprise one or more of a central processing unit (CPU), micro processing unit (MPU), or other circuitry, and may include a network of separate computers or separate computer processors. The computer executable instructions may be provided to the computer, for example, from a network or the storage medium. The storage medium may include, for example, one or more of a hard disk, a random-access memory (RAM), a read only memory (ROM), a storage of distributed computing systems, an optical disk (such as a compact disc (CD), digital

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versatile disc (DVD), or Blu-ray Disc (BD)™, a flash memory device, a memory card, and the like.

While the present invention has been described with reference to exemplary embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed exemplary 5 embodiments. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all modifications, equivalent structures, and functions.

This application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 2012-106118 filed May 7, 2012, which is 10 hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

What is claimed is:

1. A communication apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory having instructions for execution to cause the processor to:

detect a wireless network created by a base station;

acquire identification information of a provider of the detected wireless network;

determine whether the communication apparatus possesses authentication information which corresponds to the identification information and is used for authentication with an authentication server so as to connect with the detected wireless network;

provide another communication apparatus with the acquired identification information if the communication apparatus does not possess the authentication information;

acquire the authentication information corresponding to the provided identification information from the another communication apparatus if the another communication apparatus possesses the authentication information;

perform a process for generating the authentication information if the another communication apparatus does not possess the authentication information; and

perform the authentication with the authentication server using the acquired or the generated authentication information.

2. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the memory has further instructions for execution to cause the processor to:

select a wireless network to be connected by the communication apparatus based on the detected wireless network; and

acquire the authentication information used for the authentication with the authentication server which performs authentication for the selected wireless network.

3. The communication apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the memory has further instructions for execution to cause the processor to:

determine whether the authentication is to be performed with the authentication server for the selected wireless network, and

acquire the authentication information if the authentication is performed with the authentication server.

4. The communication apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the memory has further instructions for execution to cause the processor not to acquire the authentication information if the authentication is unnecessary.

5. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the memory has further instructions for execution to cause the processor to:

determine a type of the authentication information used for the authentication with the authentication server; and acquire predetermined information according to the determined type.

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6. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the memory has further instructions for execution to cause the processor to:

determine whether the communication apparatus generates the authentication information or another communication apparatus generates the authentication information;

acquire the authentication information if another communication apparatus generates the authentication information; and

acquire predetermined information for generating the authentication information from another communication apparatus if the communication apparatus generates the authentication information.

7. The communication apparatus according to claim 6, wherein if charging does not occur in generating the authentication information, the communication apparatus determines that the communication apparatus generates the authentication information.

8. The communication apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the communication apparatus determines whether the communication apparatus generates the authentication information or another communication apparatus generates the authentication information according to whether the communication apparatus can perform the authentication with the authentication server using the authentication information generated by another communication apparatus.

9. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit configured to display information of the detected wireless network,

wherein the display unit does not display information of a wireless network whose authentication information is not possessed by the communication apparatus as a connectable network.

10. The communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a display unit configured to display information of the detected wireless network,

wherein the display unit does not display information of a wireless network whose authentication information is not possessed by the communication apparatus and a network whose authentication information cannot be generated by the communication apparatus as a connectable network.

11. A control method for a communication apparatus, the method corresponding to a program stored in a memory and executed by a processor, the method comprising:

detecting a wireless network created by a base station;

acquiring identification information of a provider of the detected wireless network;

determining whether the communication apparatus possesses authentication information which corresponds to the identification information and is used for the authentication with an authentication server so as to connect with the detected wireless network;

providing another communication apparatus with the acquired identification information if the communication apparatus does not possess the authentication information;

acquiring the authentication information corresponding to the provided identification information from the another communication apparatus if the another communication apparatus possesses the authentication information;

performing a process for generating the authentication information if the another communication apparatus does not possess the authentication information; and

performing the authentication with the authentication server using the acquired or the generated authentication information.

12. A non-transitory storage medium storing a computer program executable by a processor of a communication apparatus, the program comprising:

detecting a wireless network created by a base station;
acquiring identification information of a provider of the detected wireless network;

determining whether the communication apparatus possesses authentication information which corresponds to the identification information and is used for the authentication with an authentication server so as to connect with the detected wireless network;

providing another communication apparatus with the acquired identification information if the communication apparatus does not possess the authentication information;

acquiring the authentication information corresponding to the provided identification information from the another communication apparatus if the another communication apparatus possesses the authentication information;

performing a process for generating the authentication information if the another communication apparatus does not possess the authentication information; and

performing the authentication with the authentication server using the acquired or the generated authentication information.

13. The communication apparatus according to claim **1**, wherein the identification information is realm information.

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